

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Claims 5, 17, 18, and 20 were objected to for informalities. Claims 6-8, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,521,590 to Hanaoka et al. (herein “Hanaoka”).

Addressing first the rejection to claims 5, 17, 18, and 20, those claims are amended as suggested in the Office Action to address the objection thereto. Claims 11, 23, 24, and 26 are also amended to address the same issue.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 6-8, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, those claims are believed to be clear.

The noted claims recite a “plurality of output elements” and a “plurality of change elements”. As shown for example in Figure 4 in the present specification a timer 37 includes both a change unit 41 and an output unit 43. Further, several embodiments in the present specification such as in Figure 10B and Figure 14 show plural timers 37 used in a circuit. In such non-limiting examples, plural change units 41 and plural output units 43 will be implemented by virtue of each timer 37 including a change unit 41 and an output unit 43. Thus, the recitation of plural output elements and plural change elements in the noted claims is believed to be clear.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. §1032(b) as anticipated by Hanaoka, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Applicants respectfully submit the basis for the outstanding rejection is not fully considering each of the claimed features. Specifically, independent claim 1 recites “a change unit whose state changes with lapse of time without the external power”. The other claims recite similar features. As shown for example in Figure 4 in the present specification a

change unit 41 is provided that changes its state when a certain time passes, even without the supply of external power. Several embodiments in the present specification, such as in Figures 6-9, provide details of how the “change unit” can operate. Applicants respectfully submit Hanaoka does not disclose or suggest any similar feature, and further that the outstanding rejection has not even addressed that feature.

First, applicants note the basis for the outstanding rejection does not appear to cite any element corresponding to the claimed “change unit”. The outstanding Office Action does reference a data carrier 200 in Hanaoka, and further states:

The data carrier 200 has no battery. The data carrier main circuit 100 includes a memory circuit 9 formed of a MONOS EEPROM and a control circuit 10. The control circuit 10 has a data read unit for reading data out of the memory circuit 9 and a data write unit for writing data to the memory circuit 9. The structure of Hanaoka et al is capable of performing the functional steps set forth in the claims.

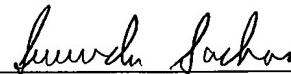
The above-noted basis for the outstanding rejection is not understood as clearly the data carrier 200 in Hanaoka, although it does not contain a battery, does not change its state based on the lapse of a time. That is, in the claimed “change unit” when a specific time lapses it’s state changes. The data carrier 200 in Hanaoka clearly does not have such an operation.

Thereby, applicants respectfully submit no element in Hanaoka corresponds to the claimed “change unit”, and thus applicants respectfully submit each of the claims as currently written distinguishes over Hanaoka.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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